Office Action dated January 07, 2004 and Advisory Action dated April 20, 2004

## Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Please amend claim 1.

## **Listing of Claims:**

- 1. (Currently Amended) A composition for detecting a target microorganism in a sample, comprising a conditionally detectable marker, wherein said marker is a red-ox dyeVital Dye, and a substrate for an aminopeptidase that is substantially absent from the target microorganism, wherein said substrate comprises a signal moiety linked to the substrate, the signal moiety capable of providing a detectable signal when cleaved by substantially all non-target microorganisms.
- 2. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said target microorganism is selected from the group consisting of bacteria, yeast, mold, fungi, protozoa, and viruses.
- 3. (Original) The composition of claim 2, wherein said target microorganism is bacteria.
- 4. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 3, wherein said bacteria is selected from the group consisting of Salmonella, Listeria, E.coli OH157, Campylobacter, Staphylococcus aereus, Cryptosporidium, and Giardia.
- 5. (Original) The composition of claim 4, wherein said bacteria is Campylobacter.
- 6. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said conditionally detectable marker is detectable by a change in color.

Office Action dated January 07, 2004 and Advisory Action dated April 20, 2004

7. (Original) The composition of claim 6, wherein said change in color is produced by the biochemical reduction of tetrazolium red.

## 8. - 9. (Canceled)

- 10. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein said aminopeptidase is an L-alanine-aminopeptidase.
- 11. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 10, wherein said substrate is selected from the group consisting of L-Alanine-7-amido-4-methylcoumarin, L-Alanine-7-amido-4-methylcoumarin TFA, L-Alanine-7-amido-4-trifluoro-methylcoumarin TFA, L-Alanyl-L-alanyl-L-phenylalanine-7-amido-4-methylcoumarin, and L-Alanyl-L-alanyl-L-phenylalanine-7-amido-4-methylcoumarin TFA.
- 12. (Original) The composition of claim 11, wherein said substrate is Lalanine-7-amido-4-methylcoumarin.
- 13. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 8, wherein said non-target microorganisms include substantially all non-Campylobacter species.
- 14. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a growth-supporting medium for the target microorganism.
- 15. (Original) The composition of claim 14, wherein said growth supporting medium contains all necessary nutrients and growth conditions to properly support the growth of the target microorganism.
- 16. (Original) The composition of claim 14, wherein said growth supporting medium contains antibiotics to suppress the growth of non-target microorganisms.

Application No. 09/940,682 Supplemental Response to Office Action dated January 07, 2004 and Advisory Action dated April 20, 2004

17. - 24. (Canceled)